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Prove Your Statements Or Resign, Chant Chided

The resignation of Public Works Minister W. N. Chant, unless he can back up his anti-labor statements, was demanded in the legislature yesterday.

"The remarks of the minister of public works were unwarranted and I believe it is only ethical when a person in such a responsible position as this makes such charges that he should be ready to back them up or resign," said Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook.)

'HOODLUM GANGSTER'

Mr. Chant said "union leaders in some quarters have replaced bootlegging, the rackets and gambling as the recognized domain of the hoodlum gangster."

"When Mr. (Gordon) Gibson was in this House you (Socreds) immediately asked him to prove his statement that 'money talks' and because he did not have the proof at that time, he resigned," Mr. Nimsick pointed out.

HEARTY CHUCKLES

"People in glass houses should not throw stones. When you realize that 9 per cent of the first Social Credit cabinet in B.C. was convicted of accepting bribes, you can feel proud of the very minute percentage of the labor movement that has fallen foul of the law in this respect," Mr. Nimsick said. His remark brought hearty chuckles from both sides of the House.

Mr. Nimsick reminded the House that Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan had said nothing was done by the cabinet regarding the Sommers bribery case, because they did not wish to throw anyone to the wolves.

THROW ANYBODY

"The facts do not bear this out. I submit you will throw anybody to the wolves if it suits your purpose," Mr. Nimsick charged.

"How about Mr. Jamieson (former sergeant-at-arms and engineer who was sent to inspect Stewart-Cassiar Road, and after making his report, was fired)? You had no compunction when it came to him.

REFUSED PROBE

"You know as well as I do that as an engineer he was bringing before this government evidence of corruption," he charged. "Here again you refused a full investigation into the Stewart-Cassiar Road deal.

"You thought nothing of having Mr. Briggs fired when he had the courage to tell the people what was going on," he said.

LONG IN GUTTER

"You people have been in the gutter a long time . . . it hurts and irritates members to learn the truth," he charged.

Speaker Hugh Shantz ruled the word gutter was not to be used in the House again.

Mr. Nimsick maintained that the mines minister's statement they have no desire to throw anyone to the wolves was "hollow."

CASTING SHADOW

"When it came to casting a shadow over themselves, they were satisfied to sweep all the dirt under the carpet with the hope that by some mysterious circumstance, it would disappear," he said.

"They even went to the country in 1956 to win an election before the carpet could be lifted. To me, such connivings and misuse of people's trust discounts all the pious approaches that are taken."

This is fire-damaged dwelling of pensioner Ernest E. Burton, at 4075 Grange, as Saanich firemen killed last of blaze yesterday afternoon.

* * *

Old Man Homeless

Fire Guts Cabin, Pensioner Flees

An aged Saanich pensioner was left homeless yesterday afternoon when fire burned out the interior of his small home at 4075 Grange Road.

Ernest E. Burton, 79, served overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers in the First World War, and is a 90 per cent disability pensioner.

LIGHTING CIGARET

He was lighting a cigaret when the blaze broke out about 5 p.m. Firemen believe a spark from his match landed in one of two large, open match boxes on a nearby table in the kitchen.

Flames, water and smoke left the interior of the dwelling a shambles, but as firemen dug into corners to extinguish the last embers, a pot-bellied stove in the living room still burned briskly, working to warm a thoroughly chilled house.

When neighbors first arrived, Mr. Burton was standing outside the home, pouring water from a pitcher into the inferno.

Neighbors were concerned about the elderly man's pets. He had about seven cats, four of which were usually in or about the house at any time. The body of one cat was found in the smoke-filled interior after the fire was brought under control.

Unhurt himself, but cold and worried about his cats, Mr. Burton was taken to the nearby home of Saanich Police Cpl. Edward Anderson. Later he was taken by friends to Veterans' Hospital, where not long ago he underwent an operation.

No estimate was available last night on the amount of damage to building or contents.

ERNEST E. BURTON
. . . feared for cats

* * *

House Saved

Flames Checked By Garden Hose

A tenant held a house fire in check with a garden hose until firemen arrived to extinguish the blaze at 1746 Adanac about 7.15 last night.

BLAZ MLINAR
. . . kept fire at bay

Blaz Mlinar, warned by another tenant, found flames leaping along the ceiling above an over-heated furnace in a back room of his ground-floor apartment.

He used a garden hose to keep the fire from spreading.

The alarm was spread by Mrs. Milka Prsa, who smelled smoke while writing a letter in the apartment above. Her husband, Ivan Prsa, was watching television in the Mlinar apartment at the time. Neither man smelled any smoke.

Firemen said little damage was done to the home.

Concession Hinted For Jaycees

City council might be willing to make "some concession"—a grant toward the cost of renting the Memorial Arena—to the Junior Chamber of Commerce in its attempt to raise funds for a new ice surface, Acting Mayor Artkur Dowell said yesterday.

The campaign to raise $123,000 for a second rink will be launched with a two-night ice show at the arena Feb. 23 and 24, and the Jaycees have expressed surprise and annoyance about the arena commission planning to charge the full regular rental of $1,250 for the two nights.

PLAN SUPPORTED

"After all, said Roy Baker of the Junior Chamber, "they've come out publicly in support of our plan and eventually the 'Kids' Annex' will be all theirs."

The acting mayor, Ald. Austin Curtis; and arena commissioner C. C. Wyatt all said the commission received many requests for reduced rentals from deserving organizations and would be in trouble if it set a precedent.

$29,540 Slash Allowed

Assessment of the Crowe-Gonnason mill property on Government was reduced $29,540 yesterday by the court of revision for School District 61.

The court accepted arguments of representatives of the company in liquidation that some of the buildings were unuseable and of no value and that sprinkler systems were disconnected.

CNR PROTEST

The court upheld the assessments in another major Victoria case, the protest of Canadian National Railways against the valuation placed on two parcels of Victoria West land.

The CNR claimed the assessments should be reduced because use of the land was restricted and it could not be sub-let or sold, and because the railway tracks enhanced the value of nearby land but not of the property itself.

Decorations Don't Go With the Prize

Sorry, fellows, these girls don't go with the boat. Kinettes Diana Mercer, left, and Freda Willie show possible use of craft which will be given as door prize during Kinsmen Boat Show, April 16, 17 and 18 in the Curling Rink. Starting Saturday, boat will be displayed on Safeway lots around Victoria. Vic-Van Isle Kinsmen Club officials say there is plenty of space for small exhibitors who should make application to Charles Hewitt, P.O. Box 904, Victoria.—(Colonist photo.)

Long Wait for Surgery

Shortage of Beds Crisis for Jubilee

The bed shortage in Royal Jubilee Hospital is rapidly reaching the emergency stage.

It means that a man who must be operated on to discover if he has cancer has to wait three weeks before a bed becomes available.

Overflow patients already are filling treatment rooms and sun rooms.

BEDS IN HALLWAYS

"It has been weeks since we've been without patients' beds in the hallways," hospital administrator George Masters said yesterday.

Dr. J. L. Murray Anderson, medical administrator, said that with present facilities "I can see no end in sight."

LECTURE ROOMS

In case of a disaster, the only remaining facilities that could be converted into wards are the hospital's physiotheraphy department and staff lecture rooms.

The situation has worsened steadily since the beginning of the year.

"Normally at this time of year," said Dr. Anderson, "we expect a greater pressure of pneumonias, and the so-called winter diseases.

NORMAL PRESSURES

"This year, however, it appears to be normal pressures with many of the patients requiring surgery. Some of the most urgent cases have had to wait two or three weeks."

The medical administrator said he has always followed a "very firm policy" in the past of not cancelling patients coming in for surgery. The staff is well aware such delays cause emotional strain on the patient. But circumstances have forced them to over-ride the policy in recent months.

"We've been forced to postpone elective surgery with alarming regularity recently," said Mr. Masters.

OUT OF GEAR

Shortage of beds is making itself felt in other ways. It has thrown the hospital's maintenance program out of gear.

"We have what we call 'hot beds'," said Mr. Masters. "People go home and new patients fill the beds the same day. This has created severe maintenance problems because it is impossible to get into rooms and wards for cleanup and painting."

DRIVE IN PROGRESS

At present a drive is in progress in Greater Victoria to raise $410,000 for the construction of a 190-bed wing which will also house modern treatment centres for cancer and other diseases requiring special treatment.

'Prefab' Market Suggested Here

Assistant city engineer Roderick Clack has suggested a "light prefabricated, portable-type metal, outdoor market building" as the best replacement, if any, for Victoria's Public Market.

The public market building, housing also the present main firehall, is due to be demolished this spring and the site turned into a parking lot—a move which is being strongly protested by market stall-holders and customers.

Mr. Clack said in a report to the city engineer, received by council finance committee yesterday, that except during the First World War, the market had never been as popular as expected.

History of the market, he said, "does show that it has had problems ever since its inception, and that there is little likelihood of sustaining anything but a very small market in future."

If it was considered that a small market could be supported or would be desirable, he said, a small area could be allocated to a light prefabricated building which "could be made attractive and while not revenue-producing, probably self-sustaining in cost."

Mr. Clack reported that the Public Market was built at a time when the Chinese-Occidental problem was acute, largely because of the argument that it would provide food untouched by Orientals.

The "magnificent market," designed also for use as a meeting hall and centre for cultural events, was opened with fanfare in 1891, but its function as a market was not successful from the beginning, Mr. Clack said.

Collegians Return Unclaimed Cannon

Royal Roads now has its cannon back along with a new canvas cover bought by Victoria College students.

A contingent of students quietly returned the 1,400-pound brass firing piece yesterday after Canadian Services College cadets failed to reclaim the cannon themselves.

College students stole the weapon late Tuesday night as a prank.

JACK FELTON

Seen In Passing

Jack Felton re-stating the old adage that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. (A former real estate agent, he has been in the grocery business for one week. He and his wife **Isabel** have two children, **John**, 16, and **Michael** 9. His hobbies are stamp collecting and fishing) . . . **Ray Wormald** talking on the telephone . . . **Don Paulin** coming out of the customs building . . . **Fred Zeer** planting strawberries . . . **Alec Nicol** discussing shrimps and steelhead . . . **Capt. Harry Coull** watching some happy militia men on pay parade . . . **Jim Napper** waiting for his wife, **Evelyn** . . . **Sid Gault** complaining about the lights going out in his office . . . **Pete Adlum** and **Ken Reid** chatting at Bay Street Armory.

Bus Service Cutback Not Likely

Evening bus service in Greater Victoria seems fairly safe from reduction even if the B.C. Electric is considering a cutback in Vancouver.

A Victoria company official would not deny the situation was being studied because, he said, the number of passengers and the service given on the bus routes were under continuous study.

But, he said, "I don't think the subject is being given more attention now than it was a few months ago."

Defence Meeting

Greater Victoria Civil Defence Control Board will meet this morning at its headquarters.

Pensioners Protest — *'He Doesn't Know'*

Bruch Remark Draws Fire

By TED SHACKLEFORD

MLA Herbert Bruch's suggestion Tuesday that pensioners should live on the outskirts of Victoria has drawn fire from several Colonist readers.

"Mr. Bruch doesn't know what he is talking about," Robert French, president of the Old-Age Pensioners' Association No. 1, said yesterday.

"The old people are not able to move around, owing to infirmities and must stay around the city where they can walk to get their supplies. Transportation from the outskirts would take too much out of their pensions.

"I wonder if Mr. Bruch would kindly tell us where the accommodations are in the outskirts of our city."

Another, Richard T. Clegg, wrote from the Veterans' Hospital, asking what kind of places pensioners could find outside the city.

"Then again, most pensioners are in bad health, some on sticks. For the life of me I can't see his point at all. Guess he never was very hard pushed—nice soft job.

"Who would move them if a place was found, not too far from stores? Would he help? I doubt it very much."

* * *

Yesterday I had a late breakfast of cornflakes with reconstituted milk and sugar, pancakes with margarine and marmalade, and two cups of coffee. I bought a cup of coffee and a packet of salted nuts during the afternoon and dinner was three bowls of soup with toast and two more cups of coffee.

I have also bought two other cups of coffee, another bag of salted nuts, and this all reduces my finances to $11.11 for the next eight days.

As I am nearing the end of my month's assignment I am trying as far as possible to use up what food I have to avoid having to buy more. For breakfast today I will probably eat what I did yesterday.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their probems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 4-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.